

CLAIMS

1. A secure registry system including:

5 a database containing selected data on each of a plurality of entities, a code being stored with at least selected portions of said data for at least selected said entities restricting access to said selected portions to entities defined by each said code;

an identity mechanism which permits each entity to securely identify itself to the system;

10 an input mechanism which determines if an identified entity is authorized to enter data into the database, and permits an authorized entity to enter data into the database:

an access mechanism which permits access requests to be made to said database, each such request including an indication of data requested and at least one of a coded indication of the entity requesting the access and the status of such entity; and

15 an entitlement mechanism, including at least in part said identity mechanism, which determines from at least one of provided coded indication of entity and coded indication of entity status whether the entity is entitled to access the requested data, the mechanism granting access to the requested data if the entity is entitled and denying access if the entity is not entitled.

20 2. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said input mechanism includes a restriction mechanism which permits entities to identify portions of the data relating to them for which there is to be restricted access and to store the appropriate code with each such portion, said restriction mechanism including a change mechanism for permitting
25 an entity identified by said identity mechanism to change entities to whom access is granted for at least selected portions of the data for the entity.

30 3. A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein each entity has a code regimen by which it can be identified by said identity mechanism and a distress code regimen which the entity may employ when making at least one of entries and changes in the database to indicate that such is being done under duress; and

a protection mechanism operative in response to receipt of a distress code regimen for initiating appropriate action for the protection of the entity.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said entitlement mechanism releases
5 selected portions of data for entities to at least selected classes of data requesters based only on the coded status of such entity.

5. A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein at least selected data requesting entities
10 have a mechanism included in their processors which automatically adds their status code to each data request sent by the entity to the system.

6. A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein at least selected data requesting entities
have a mechanism included in their processors which provides a format for requested
15 data; and wherein said system includes a mechanism which accumulates data required to respond to a request in said format and responds to the request with the collected data presented in said format.

7. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said coded indication and coded status for
20 an entity are selectively merged into a single coded input to the system for an access requesting entity, the system including a mechanism for determining the coded status and coded indication from the single coded input.

8. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein an entity requesting data has a
25 mechanism included in their processor which automatically includes with at least selected data requests a coded status indication and a form into which requested information is to be provided; and wherein said entitlement mechanism provides information from the database to which the entity is entitled in the form provided by the entity.

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9. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein relevant data is stored in additional databases outside said system;

said system including a retrieval mechanism which, if the entity is entitled to receive such data, retrieves relevant data from a said additional database and provides it to the entity requesting the data in a manner transparent to the entity.

10. A secure registry system for entities, each of which is identified by a multicharacter public code, the system including:

a database from which the public code for each entity may be obtained; and
a processor at a provider of services for entities, said processor including a mechanism for mapping each received public code to data required by the provider in order to provide the services, (receiving the public code for an entity on whose behalf services are to be provided) and using the corresponding mapped data to perform the services.

11. A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said provider provides delivery services, the mapped data being an address to which item are to be delivered for the entity, the provider receiving an item to be delivered and a public code for the recipient, and using the public code to obtain the appropriate address for delivery of the item.

12. A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said provider provides telephone service, the mapped data being a current telephone number for the entity, the provider receiving the public code and connecting the party providing the code to the current telephone number of the entity.

13. A secure registry system including:

a database containing selected data on each of a plurality of entities;
a mechanism by which an organization desiring access to data in said database may gain such access, each said organization having a processor which generates data requests, each such data request including a form in which such data is to be provided; and

a response mechanism which collects data required by said form for a given request, formats the collected data in said form, and sends the formatted data to the organization generating the request.

- 5 14. A secure registry system including:
a database containing biographical data on a plurality of individuals;
a query mechanism by which an entity trying to find an individual can input to the
system a query containing selected biographical data on the individual;
a response mechanism operative in response to a query for providing to the entity
10 selected information on individuals in the system matching the query biological
information; and
a contact mechanism by which the entity making the query can contact a
matching individual only through the system, no contact information being provided to
the entity.
- 15 15. A storage media containing machine readable code which facilitates
communication between a remote machine running the code and a secure registry system
of a type having a database containing selected data on each of a plurality of entities and
restricted access to at least portions of such data, the code causing access requests from
20 the machine to the system to each automatically include at least a status code for the
machine and a format in which data requested is to be presented for response, the system
recognizing the status code to control access to data in the database and using the format
to select the data to be accessed and to control the format in which accessed data is
returned to the machine.
- 25 16. A method for providing a secure registry system including:
a database containing selected data on each of a plurality of entities, a code being
stored with at least selected portions of said data for at least selected said entities
restricting access to said selected portions to entities defined by each said code;
30 permitting each entity to securely identify itself;

determining if an identified entity is authorized to enter data into the database, and permitting an authorized entity to enter data into the database:

permitting access requests to be made to said database, each such request including an indication of data requested and at least one of a coded indication of the entity requesting the access and the status of such entity; and

determining from at least one of provided coded indication of entity and coded indication of entity status whether the entity is entitled to access the requested data, granting access to the requested data if the entity is entitled and access being denied if the entity is not entitled.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said includes a restriction mechanism which permits entities to identify portions of the data relating to them for which there is to be restricted access and to store the appropriate code with each such portion, said restriction mechanism including a change mechanism for permitting an entity identified by said identity mechanism to change entities to whom access is granted for at least selected portions of the data for the entity.

18. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein each entity has a code regimen by which it can be identified and a distress code regimen which the entity may employ when making at least one of entries and changes in the database to indicate that such is being done under duress; and

a protection mechanism operative in response to receipt of a distress code regimen for initiating appropriate action for the protection of the entity.

19. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein selected portions of data for entities to at least selected classes of data requesters based only on the coded status of such entity are released

20 A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein relevant data is also stored in additional databases outside said system;

said system including a retrieval mechanism which, if the entity is entitled to receive such data, retrieves relevant data from a said additional database and provides it to the entity requesting the data in a manner transparent to the entity.

5 21. A method for providing a secure register for entities, each of which is identified by a multicharacter public code, the system including:

a database from which the public code for each entity may be obtained; and

a provider of servicesprocessor at a provider of services for entities, said

processor including a mechanism for receiving the public code for an entity on whose

10 behalf //mapping each received public code to data required by the provider in order to

provide the services, (receiving the public code for an entity on whose behalf services are to be provided) and using the corresponding mapped data to perform the services.

22. A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said provider provides delivery

15 services, the mapped data being an address to which item are to be delivered for the

entity, the provider receiving an item to be delivered and a public code for the recipient, and using the public code to obtain the appropriate address for delivery of the item.

23. A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said provider provides telephone

20 service, the mapped data being a current telephone number for the entity, the provider

receiving the public code and connecting the party providing the code to the current telephone number of the entity.